

LXIV.

MEMOIRES OF LITERATURE.

MONDAY, June 4. 1711.

I.
A LETTER of Dr. DEIDIER,
Professor of Physick in the University of Montpellier, to Dr. Gastaldy Professor of Physick in the University of Avignon, containing Two new Observations about a complicated Catalepsy.

SIR;

If I have been Two Months without communicating to you my Observations upon the Cataleptic, who made so great a Noise in this City last May, it is not my Fault: A long Journey I have lately taken into Provence, has interrupted for some time my Correspondence with my Friends, by way of Letters. To make you amends for it, instead of one Observation I shall send you Two, the last of which is altogether new; and though it be not so curious as the first, I hope it will not be unacceptable to you.

There was a Complication of Epilepsy and Catalepsy in the Two Sick Persons, who make the Subject of my Observations. To prove it, I shall consider in a few Words each of those two Distempers. Catalepsy and Epilepsy are two Distempers of the Head, the Explication whereof did always appear to me extremely difficult; without doubt because the latter is very frequent, and the former does but seldom happen: One of them is attended with a vast number of different Symptoms, and the other with a particular one, about which Physicians are not well agreed. In those Two Distempers, when they are perfect, all Sense vanishes away, as in a strong Apoplexy. Epilepsy is attended with Convulsions or convulsive Motions in several Parts of the Body; whereas a true Catalepsy is free from Convulsions, and the Members of the sick Person are easily put into, and constantly remain in any Posture.

Those Epilepticks, who are tormented with convulsive Motions, shake their Limbs several ways, and foam in the Mouth: Those, who are in a Convulsion, have all their Members stiff and at rest. It happens sometimes, that some have but one constant Convulsion in the lower Jaw; all the other Parts being relaxed as in an Apoplexy. Lastly, in some Epilepticks, there are some Parts agitated with convulsive Motions, whilst others are in a Convulsi-

on; and those Convulsions do successively remove from Part to another. All those Disorders are (in my Opinion) to be ascribed to this Cause, viz. That the Sanguine Vessels of the Brain being unequally provided with Blood, the Animal Spirit is forced to run irregularly in the different Muscles, that have a Communication with those Parts of the Brain that are free. Which is confirm'd by opening the Bodies of those, who die of an Epilepsy; for one will constantly find some varicous Veins, or aneurismal Tumors, known by the Name of Glands, that are formed near the Cavities of the *pia mater* in the *Plexus Choroides*, or at the Basis of the Skull.

All true Catalepticks are without Motion like Statues; all their Limbs may be put into, and remain in any Posture: But Authors don't agree, whether their Limbs are stiff or pliant. However, I saw about Seven or Eight Years ago in the Hospital of this City Two perfect Catalepticks, whose Members were as easily moved, as those of any Man that is asleep. One of those Two Catalepticks was about Fifteen or Sixteen Years of Age, of a melancholy Temper, and naturally stupid. At first he had been sick of a malignant Fever, attended with Drowsiness, and then with a total Privation of Sense; the Pulse, the Respiration, and the Deglutition remaining entire. I took him to be an Apopleptic; but when I came to lift up his Limbs, I found he was a true Cataleptic. He remained 24 Hours in that Condition, and died; but when his Body was opened, I could not be present at it. The other sick Person of Twenty Years of Age, seem'd to enjoy a perfect Health; and being informed of the Accidents he had been subject to for the Space of Three Days, I thought he was Epileptic: But perceiving no Convulsion in him, nor any convulsive Motion, I found out that it was a true Periodical Catalepsy, because his Limbs did constantly remain in the same Situation I put them in, for the Space of Eight Hours, which was the time of each Paroxysm. A Week after the sick Person did perfectly recover with the help of *Emetick* and *Quinquina*. He was a little more Stupid than before, and died Four Years after of a Peripneumony.

Those Two Catalepticks were frequently visited by several Doctors and Students of Physick, who followed me; and we all agreed that their Limbs were pliant. Which made me think, that in a true Catalepsy the Animal Spirits have a free Passage, much in the same manner as in a State of Health; and that the Seat of that Disease must be in that inward Part of the Brain, wherein all Sensations are performed, which is call'd *Emporium*, the Fibres whereof being relaxed by a superfluous Serosity, cannot receive the outward Impressions, which occasion the Sensations of the Soul. And therefore the Members of a Cataleptic may easily be moved by determining the

Spirits without the Will of the sick Person ; and the Limbs will remain in the same State, till it be changed by an external Cause ; for such a Change cannot be produced by a Pain like that which we feel when our Members are not in a natural Situation, since the sick Person has no Feeling. I proceed to those Observations, that make the Subject of this Letter.

William Bousquet of Cavaillon in the Diocese of Rhône, between 55 and 60 Years of Age, fell sick the 25th of last April, having had a great deal of Trouble on account of his Family. Being admitted into the Hospital, he was let Blood twice, and purged once in the space of five or six Days without any Success. Having order'd that the Sacraments should be administred unto him on the 3d of May, the Curate could not get one Word from him ; which moved me to examine him the next Day more carefully : though I call'd him by his Name, pinch'd him, wrested his Fingers, and pluck'd out his Hair, it did not appear that he had any Feeling. All his Members were pliant ; and I thought he was Apoplectick : But when I came to lift up his Arms, I was agreeably surprised to find them constantly remain in that Situation. I raised his Legs and Thighs with the same ease ; and those Parts remain'd lifted up, with the Arms and the Trunk which I had bent, insomuch that the whole Body rested only upon the Fundament. I order'd him to be taken out of his Bed, to see whether he could walk : When he stood up, I raised his Arms as high as I could, and pushing him forward, made him go a Step sometimes on one side, and sometimes on another, according as he was push'd. The thing being reported all over the Town, People flock'd from all Parts to see that Man ; and because every Body examin'd him according to their Prejudices, they did not agree about the Pliantness of his Limbs. Some maintain'd, that they were in Convulsion ; others found them pliant ; and some kept a Medium. What will surprise you, Sir, is, that they were all in the right. I return'd to the Hospital two Hours after my Visit, and observ'd that the lower Jaw was in Convulsion, insomuch that they could not make him take any Broth, nor the Emetick Potion I had prescribed for him. I found then some Resistance in moving the Thighs of the sick Person, tho' his Arms were still pliant enough. I went Home very much displeased with my Observation as to the Hypothesis I had formed before. I durst not deny that he was a true Cataleptic ; and I was afraid of affirming that he was Epileptic : However, not boing able to make him swallow any thing, I only prescribed Glisters with troubled Emetick, and cupping with Scarifications. The sick Person remained 24 Hours in that Condition ; and then began to feel and speak some Words. In the mean time they continued to stir his Arms with Violence, so far as to make him weary ; and therefore one cannot be sure whether he remembred what pass'd during his Symptom. He continued to be so stupid, that no just Consequence could be drawn from what he said. He died the 9th of the same Month about three or four a Clock in the Morning ; and his Body was opened in the Afternoon by M^{rs} Peyronie in the Presence of Dr. Vieussens. We found two glandulous Bodies of the bigness of a large Pea upon the *pia mater* on both sides of the Longitudinal Cavity. Those glandulous Bodies had made two considerable Holes in the inside of the Two Parietals ; and the whole inward Texture of the Brain was imbibed with an extraneous Serosity ; whereby I was fully convinced that the sick Person was both Epileptic and Cataleptic ; but Catalepsy prevailed.

John Soldier, about Forty Years old, of the City of Agen, lately a Soldier in the Regiment of Poitou, and belonging to the Company of Captain de la Requette, in the Citadel of Montpellier, having undergone several Hardships in a long Journey, and being troubled in his Mind because he had left his Family, was carried to the Hospital the Eighth of this Month in the Evening. He had neither Sense nor Motion ; however, his Eyes were open, ed, and he look'd upon those that were present : Being violently pinch'd, he gave no Answer ; His Pulse was natural, and he had a free Respiration. I took him at first to be a Carotick, and only prescribed a cordial Potion for the Evening. The next day in the Morning finding him almost in the same Condition, I lifted up his Arms without any Resistance, and was agreeably surprised to see that they remain'd where I put them, and that I could remove them again with the same Ease, in the Pre-

sence of Dr. Gyberd a Physician of our University, who tried, as well as I, to lift up all the Limbs. I could not so easily move the Legs and Thighs of the sick Person : they were bent, and I wanted all my Strength to stretch them. The lower Jaw was in such a violent Convulsion, that it was hardly possible to find a Moment, to make him Swallow some Broth, insomuch that the sick Person remained 24 Hours without taking any thing.

I prescribed cupping with Scarifications, bleeding in the Neck, and Emetick Wine in the Space of three Days ; and then the Symptoms of Catalepsy vanishing away, all the Parts of the Body appeared in Convulsion : And after some inconsiderable Stools, occasion'd by a Glistier with troubled Emetick, all the Convulsions ceased ; the sick Person recovered his Senses ; and the Fever grew so violent, that he died the 15th of this Month. I caused his Body to be open'd by a young Surgeon of the Hospital, who, as he was sawing the Skull, cut the Brain through. We found the *pia mater* a little sticking to the right Parietal : The longitudinal Cavity was interspersed with many glandulous Grains of the bigness of a Grain of Millet, lying at the Extremities of the sanguine Vessels of the *pia mater*, which reach to the longitudinal Cavity. All the Vessels of the *pia mater* were at least twice larger than they use to be, and full of Blood, which had let out its Serosity above the *pia mater* into all the inside of the Brain. Which gave me occasion to take out, only with my Fingers, all the *pia mater*, with those Vessels that came off easily from the Folds of the Brain, the *Cerebellum*, and the continued Marrow, (*medulla oblongata*) both above and underneath, and in the inside, as far as the *Plexus Choroides*, where I found many small glandulous Bodies of the Bigness of a small Pea. The Serosity had run out upon the Basis of the Skull through the Cut of the Brain, where we found a full Porringer. The end of the Marrow of the Back-bone, which appears at the Basis of the Skull, when the *medulla oblongata* and the *Cerebellum* are taken out, was so imbibed with Serosity, that we let out about a full Egg-shell, squeezing it with the Finger, or the back of an Incision-Knife.

It appears to me from that Observation, that this Soldier was more Epileptic than Cataleptic ; and I should be glad to have your Opinion about it. I am,

SIR,

Montpellier, Ju-
ly, 19. 1710.

Your most Humble and
most Obedient Servant,

DEIDIER.

PHILIPPI A LIMBORCH
Commentarius in Acta Apostolorum, &
in Epistolas ad Romanos & ad He-
breos. Roterodami, apud Bernardum
Bos. 1711. O : in quod mali et ratiem
That is, A + Commentary upon the Acts of
the Apostles, and the Epistles to the Ro-
mans and the Hebrews. By PHILIP
LIMBORCH. Rotterdam, 1711.
in Fol. pagg. 734:

M. Limborch, designing to write a Commentary upon some Parts of the New Testament, pitch'd upon the *Acts of the Apostles*, and the Epistles to the Romans and the Hebrews, because the Truth and Excellence of the Christian Religion do eminently appear

+ This Book is to be had at Mr. Paul Vaillant's in the Strand.

in

in those Three Books. In *The Acts of the Apostles* (says he) contain many undeniable Proofs of the Truth of Christianity, not only against the Jews, but also against all other Unbelievers. The Epistle to the Romans teaches us, that the Christian Faith is the only Way of being justified, and obtaining Eternal Salvation. In the Epistle to the Hebrews, the Law of Jesus Christ is compared with that of Moses; and it appears from that Comparison, that the former is much more excellent than the latter. Those Considerations moved the Author to publish this Commentary.

The Chief Design of M. Limberch, in his Performance upon the *Acts of the Apostles*, is to prove against the Jews, and others, the Resurrection of Christ, his Ascension into Heaven, and the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles. He was the more willing to enlarge upon those Facts, because he knew by Experience, that it is the most effectual Method of Confuting the Jews. The Readers will find, in this Part of his Commentary, the strongest Objections of the Jews confuted, especially those of *Juda Lumbroso*, Doctor of Physick, who lived in the State of *Venice* in the last Century. The Objections of that Learned Jew are taken from a Tract never yet publish'd, entitled *Propugnaculum Judaismi*. Dr. Lumbroso writ it in Answer to the Vth Book of *Grotius de Veritate Religionis Christianae*; and it was communicated to M. Limberch by the famous Dr. Oratio, with whom he had a Conference, which was publish'd several Years ago.

The Author having prov'd the Truth of the Christian Religion by the History of Christ and his Apostles, confirms it by another Argument taken from those Prophecies of the Old Testament relating to the *Messias*, which were fulfill'd in Jesus Christ. He observes, that this Part of the Dispute with the Jews, ought to be managed with great Prudence; for he acknowledges a double Sense in most Prophecies that concern the *Messias*, viz. a Literal, and a Mystical one; and therefore he is very careful to enquire first into the Literal Meaning. Afterwards he shews, that the Literal Sense does not fully answer those Prophecies; and that a more Sublime and more Excellent Sense lies concealed under it, as it were under a Type, and was entirely fulfill'd in Jesus Christ, according to all the Force and Energy of the Words. M. Limberch is of Opinion, that (generally speaking) no mystical Sense should be look'd for, but in those Passages that have been applied to Jesus Christ by the Writers of the New Testament. Which gives him Occasion to make, in his Preface, several Judicious Reflexions against Allegories. He shews that the *Roman Catholicks*, before the Reformation, had in a manner destroy'd the true Sense of the Holy Scripture, by running into Allegories; and he wonders, that such an absurd Method of Explaining the Word of God should have been revived among the Protestants. There are in *Holland* many Divines, commonly known by the Name of *Cocceians*, who by virtue of this Rule, *The Words of the Scripture signify whatever they can signify*, give themselves a prodigious Latitude in Expounding the Bible. The Author discovers the Absurdity, and the dangerous Consequences of the *Cocceian* Method: His Observations relating to this Head, are worth Reading.

M. Limberch is a Learned and Eminent Divine among the Remonstrants of *Amsterdam*. His Theology, and his Method of Confuting the Jews, are so well known by his Body of Divinity, and his Conference with Dr. Oratio, publish'd several Years since, that it were needless to dwell upon it. This Commentary is written with great Judgment and Perspicuity, and fully answers the Reputation of the Author. It is more Theological than Critical; and will be of great Use, especially to Preachers, even to those who follow *Calvin's System*. The Author has inserted a Paraphrase upon each Chapter of the Epistles to the *Romans* and the *Hebrews*.

Some Observations upon the Winter-Cold in 1709. extracted from the History of the Royal Academy of Sciences for that Year, lately publish'd at Paris.

TIS a surprising thing, that a South Wind should have blown for many Days at *Paris* in the Year 1709. when the Cold was so severe and so extraordinary. In order to account for it, M. de la Hire said, that the Mountains of *Auvergne*, lying South with respect to *Paris*, were full of Snow: And M. Homberg added, That a very cold North-Wind, which came from a remote Place, and reached a great way off, having blown before; the South-Wind was only a Reflux of the same Air driven by the North-Wind, and heated no where. It may very well be, that those Two Causes met together.

In the same Winter, the Ice in the Port of *Copenhagen* was twenty seven Inches thick in those very Places where it was not heap'd up. Which is the more remarkable, because during the great Frost of the Year 1683. the Royal Society having caused the Thickness of the Ice to be measur'd in the *Thames*, when they went over it in a Coach, it appear'd to be only of Eleven Inches.

In the same Year, (1709.) the Royal Society of Sciences at *Montpellier*, sent to the Royal Academy of Sciences at *Paris* a Work of M. Gauteron, one of their Members, to keep up the strict Union which ought to be between them, as making but one Body, according to the Statutes granted by the King in February 1706.

That Work is entitled, *Observations upon the Evaporation of Liquids in a great Cold; with some Remarks upon the Effects of Frost*.

'Tis a surprizing thing, that the Evaporation of Fluids, which is commonly occasion'd by a great Heat, should be also the Effect of a great Cold.

M. Gauteron gives us his Thoughts about it in the following manner.

'Tis well known by many Experiments, that the Air contains a Salt, which is thought to come near the Nature of Nitre.

The Air is more condensed in Winter than in any other Season of the Year. That Condensation of the Air brings the Molecules of Nitre near one another, and they meet in a larger Bulk; which produces a greater Quantity of Motion with the same Swiftness.

This is sufficient to make that Salt work with a greater Force upon the Particles of a Fluid, and to make them evaporate; whereas, in Summer, the Evaporation of Liquids is occasion'd by a violent Agitation of the Ethereal Matter.

Here follow the most Considerable Remarks of M. Gauteron, upon the great Cold of the Year 1709.

Water cover'd with Oil froze up about half an hour later, than Water exposed to the Air without any Oil upon it; and as it froze, it formed a kind of Icy Mushroom rais'd an Inch above the Surface of the Oil.

Walnut-Oil kept the Water from freezing very much, which Olive-Oil could not do.

Hot Water, ready to boil, froze up about half an hour later than natural Water.

Brandy, Walnut-Oil, and Turpentine-Oil did not freeze at all.

During the Frost, tho' the Sky was very clear, the Sun look'd somewhat pale.

At *Montpellier*, Orange-trees and Pomegranate-trees lost their Leaves and Boughs: The greatest Part of those Trees died to the very Root; and what was never seen in that Country, Laurels, Fig-trees, Holm-Oaks, and even some common Oaks have had the same Fate. The *Rhône* was frozen up to the Height of Twelve Foot, by the Lays of Ice heap'd one upon another; and the Pond of *Thau*, (*l'Etang de Thau*) which is commonly very stormy, and has a Communication with the Sea by a short and broad Canal, was frozen up all over, which never happen'd before.

Lastly,

Lastly, The Thaw of the 23d of January, and that of the 26th. of February, were attended with an Epidemical Rheum : There was hardly any body free from it.

All those Things ought to be ascribed to the same Cause ; viz. to the Change that happens in the Air in frosty Weather.

IV.

SOME Observations upon Cray-fish, by M. GEOFFROY the Younger; extracted from the same Book.

WHAT we call *Crabs-eyes* are small Stones, white, round, and generally flat : They go by that Name, because they are taken from the Fish so call'd ; and because tho' they be not very like Eyes, yet they resemble them more than any other Part.

It appears from M. Geoffroy's Observations, that those

L O N D O N .

THE following Piece is newly come out.

E S T R I D : *An Account of a Swedish Maid, who has lived Six Years without Food, and has had of God during that time strange and secret Communications, now living in Noraby, near Malmo in Schonen. As the same was communicated to the Bishop of Skara in West-Gothland, and laid before the Ecclesiastical Court at Lundun, and has been fully confirm'd by his Excellency the Field-Marshal Steinbock, by whom she has been frequently visited. Originally written in Swedish, and lately printed at Skara; the whole being attested by the Bishop thereof. In a Letter to the Right Reverend Father in God, JOHN, Lord Bishop of BRISTOL. Faithfully translated into English from the Swedish. London: Printed for J. Jacobi, near Somerset-House, in the Strand. 1711. in 8vo pagg. 22.*

The second Sunday after the Epiphany, in the Year 1703. Estrid, Daughter of Ester Jon, the Maid mention'd in the Title of this Account, was overwhelmed with Grief, and shed a Flood of Tears at Church, when she heard the Minister (M. John Johanneus) discourse about the Cross and Sufferings of Jesus Christ. The next Day she went with her Master, who carried Corn to the Market. Being upon the Road, she felt a Pain in all her Limbs, and sweated, though the Weather was extremely cold, and had much a-do to go home. Her Illness encreased more and more by a daily running of Blood through the Mouth and the Nose. She took nothing but a little Milk and Whey about the Space of a Year; and since that time she eat nothing at all. In the same Year (1703.) about Easter, her Parents having resolved to go to a Conjuror, without her Knowledge, the Figure of a Child of Four Years of Age appeared by her Bed-side, bidding her not to comply with the Design of her Parents, and assuring her that God would be her Physician and Comforter.

This Apparition, which lasted Two Hours, was attended with another on the same Day. She saw in the Evening a Brightness, like a beautiful Morning Star *. She has seen it ever since : It shines in her Chamber every Day from Sun-setting till Sun-rising. When she is very much cast down, there appears in that Brightness a kind of Face, which looking upon her, gives her great Ease and Comfort. That Brightness fills the whole Room with Light; but no body else perceives it. Every Body is in the dark, whilst she sees the Star. To know the Truth of it, those that are in the Room, take a Piece of Money in one Hand, and another in the other; which she plainly distinguishes, tells exactly what it is, and never misses. At first she saw the Star in the Cieling of the Room; but it is come down since lower and lower, and appears now in her Bed.

About Midsummer in the same Year (1703.) she began to swoon away, or fall into Extasies; which happens Eight or Ten times in an Hour: Each Extasy lasts at most two Minutes and a half at a time. When she awakes, she fetches a deep Sigh, and with folded Hands thanks her Saviour, who has saved and delivered her; and then repeats some Passages out of the Word of God. She often prays for the King.

She says, that whenever she falls into a swoon, she is carried into a beautiful white Church, where every thing

* 'Tis not improbable, that this Maid applies to her self the 28th Verse of the 11d. Chapter of the Revelation.

Stones are not formed in the Brain of that Fish, as the most Learned Naturalists believed, but in the Stomach, as Van Helmont found it out first.

Those Stones are only to be found in Cray-fish, when they mew, which happens every Year in July. Then they cast their Shell, and the Membrane, that covers the Inside, growing hard by degrees, becomes a new Shell.

Their old Stomach vanishes away, and likewise their Intestin; at least M. Geoffroy is apt to think so; and the outward Membranes of those Viscera succeed them.

They are weak and lingring, and eat nothing whilst they are mewing.

What is very remarkable, is, that the old Stomach is digested by the new one, and serves them for Food when they mew.

M. Geoffroy believes, that the Stones to be found in Cray-fish, make Part of their Food, when they are Sick. The Reason he gives for it, is, that those Stones grow continually lesser, till they wholly vanish away.

shines Bright and Glorious; and there is an unexpressible Joy, sweetly singing and playing upon Musick, to "the Praise and Glory of our Lord Jesus Christ". She adds, that many Persons appear in that Church dress'd in White, and that their Number continually increases. She knows them, but is not allowed to name them; and whenever she has a mind to do it, her Words are immediately snatch'd out of her Mouth.

Estrid is a Maid "of a delicate Countenance, brownish, her Body white and beautiful, can stir her Arms which way she pleases, but has no Use of the rest of her Limbs. Her Stomach lies close to her Back, since she uses no Food. She has no Strength in her Back, but must be kept upright with a String, upon which she hangs with her Breast. If the same String happens to be loosen'd at any time, she then immediately falls forward upon her Face, which gives her sometimes a little Ease. If afterwards she is set up again, it cracks in the Back-bone, which also happens sometimes when she hangs upright. Her Legs and Thighs are contracted under her Backside. She feels no Change of Cold or Heat, let it be never so great and vehement.

That Maid was Twenty five Years of Age in September 1707. when the Minister of her Parish deliver'd the Certificate mention'd in this Account. He says, "That tho' for the Space of Three Years and a half, she has not used so much Meat or Drink, as would for once feed a little Child; her Body and Limbs feel nevertheless as well and as firm, as if she could eat very heartily. Her Nails upon her Fingers and Toes do not grow at all, but are as soft as in a new-born Child. There is no Day but she swoons away above Two Hundred times, being as if she was dead, and comes to her self again.

These are the most Remarkable Circumstances relating to that Maid, that are to be found in the Certificate just now mention'd; in the Account printed at Skara 1710. in the Swedish Language, and written by M. Peter Gudhemius, a Minister; and in the Abstract of a Letter of the Bishop of Skara to the Lord Bishop of Bristol, dated the 9th of December 1710. The Swedish Bishop says in his Letter; By the enclosed Printed Account, your Lordship will learn a surprizing thing, whereof the truth is as certain, as that I am now writing this Letter. I have writ about it to his Excellency the Field-Marshal Count Magnus Steinbock, who confirms it, having often visited the Maid himself. . . . It is very certain she sees the Star. . . . As often as she comes to her self, after she has been in the White Church, she has got some Passages out of the Bible, but not the same every time; altho' she cannot read, nor ever knew those Passages before. I thought this Account would not be ungrateful to the Curious in England, and could wish to know their Judgment thereupon. The Girl is still (December 9. 1710.) in the same Condition; and if I can do your Lordship any Pleasure herein, I'll acquaint you with what I hear further about her.

A D V E R T I S E M E N T .

THE Title and a Large Index for these Memoirs will come out about the latter End of this Year: And afterwards, an Index will be publish'd at the End of each Year.

L O N D O N : Printed by J. Roberts: And Sold by A. Baldwin, near the Oxford-Arms in Warwick-Lane. (Price 2 d.)